

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6067

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PLANS FOR SOVIET, EASTERN EUROPEAN VISITS

1. SUMMARY: QUAI CONFIRMS PLANS FOR VISITS BY PREMIER CHIRAC TO MOSCOW, BY FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND BY FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO POLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. USSR: IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, LEQUETIER, QUAI'S CHIEF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, CONFIRMED (MOSCOW'S 0818 NOTAL) THAT FRENCH PREMIER CHIRAC WILL MAKE WORKING VISIT TO USSR IN LATTER PART OF MARCH. TRIP WAS AGREED TO IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPLE DURING BREZHNEV'S STAY IN FRANCE, BUT NEITHER

EXACT DATE NOR PRECISE AGENDA HAVE SO FAR BEEN DEFINITELY WORKED OUT -- APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES ON SOVIET SIDE. LEQUETIER THOUGHT THAT CHIRAC WOULD BE IN USSR FOUR TO FIVE DAYS, OF WHICH AT LEAST TWO WOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR WORKING MEETINGS. SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD DEPEND PARTLY ON CHIRAC'S OFFICIAL COUNTERPART, A QUESTION ABOUT WHICH THERE SEEMS, CURIOUSLY, TO BE STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY. IF, AS QUAI ASSUMES, IT IS KOSYGIN, PRINCIPAL TOPICS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CSCE AND FRENCH-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

3. POLAND: LEQUETIER ALSO INFORMED US THAT FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WILL MAKE LONG-SCHEDULED, REPEATEDLY POSTPONED "ROUTINE" VISIT TO WARSAW IN LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY; AND ADVISED US IN CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S VISIT TO POLAND, WHICH WAS TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED DURING INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI'S VISIT TO POLAND IN SEPTEMBER 1974, IS NOW DEFINITELY PLANNED FOR JUNE. LEQUETIER CHARACTERIZED GISCARD'S TRIP AS LATEST IN SERIES OF FRENCH-POLISH SUMMIT ENCOUNTERS WHICH HAVE COME TO MARK THE "SPECIAL" POLISH-FRENCH RELATIONSHIP. SUBSTANTIVELY, POLES HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED A "SOMEWHAT INFLATED" TEXT OF A PROPOSED JOINT- DECLARATION, WHICH IS NOW BEING REVIEWED IN THE QUAI. THE MAIN RESULT OF THE VISIT FROM QUAI'S POINT OF VIEW, IS LIKELY TO BE A NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE ACCORD, TO BE NEGOTIATED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING TEN YEAR FRENCH-POLISH AGREEMENT. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS NEW ACCORD, ACCORDING TO LEQUETIER, WILL BE TO ASSURE FRANCE A LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF POLISH COAL AT SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER LEVELS, AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN FRENCH-POLISH TRADE IN GENERAL.

4. YUGOSLAVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY: QUAI ALSO EXPECTS FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA IN MAY AND HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE CZECH AND HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN PARIS IN APRIL AND JUNE RESPECTIVELY.
RUSH

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